

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

1. (Currently Amended) A filter attaching apparatus comprising:

a conveying path for conveying an intermediate product of a filter cigarette in which a cigarette and a filter are aligned with each other in an axial direction thereof,

feeding means for feeding a tip paper piece, in which paste is applied to one side thereof, along a prescribed feeding path and affixing the tip paper piece to the intermediate product,

a rolling passage adapted to connect to said conveying path, said rolling passage causing the conveyed intermediate product to roll in a feeding direction of the tip paper piece and winding the tip paper piece around the intermediate product to form a filter cigarette, and

dust-cleaning means located along said conveying path, said dust-cleaning means having a suction opening that overlaps at least a passing area of the filter and extends in a path direction of said conveying path, and producing a sucking force through the suction opening,

wherein said conveying path includes a train of conveying drums that rotate while holding the intermediate product on respective outer peripheries thereof, and said suction opening is formed into the shape of a circular arc in section along the outer circumference of said conveying drum.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The filter attaching apparatus according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein said feeding means includes a receiving drum that rotates while sucking the other side of the tip paper piece and affixes the tip paper piece to the intermediate product at a position opposite to said conveying drum, and

 said dust-cleaning means further has a nozzle hole that generates airflow along the outer periphery of said receiving drum to form an air curtain covering a passing area of the tip paper piece immediately before an inlet of said rolling passage.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ filter attaching apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ , comprising:

a conveying path for conveying an intermediate product of a filter cigarette in which a cigarette and a filter are aligned with each other in an axial direction thereof,
 feeding means for feeding a tip paper piece, in which paste is applied to one side thereof, along a prescribed feeding path and affixing the tip paper piece to the intermediate product,

a rolling passage adapted to connect to said conveying path, said rolling passage causing the conveyed intermediate product to roll in a feeding direction of the tip paper piece and winding the tip paper piece around the intermediate product to form a filter cigarette, and

dust-cleaning means located along said conveying path, said dust-cleaning means having a suction opening that overlaps at least a passing area of the filter and extends in a path direction of said conveying path, and producing a sucking force through the suction

opening, wherein said suction opening extends up to the front of an inlet of said rolling passage.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The-A~~ filter attaching apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:

a conveying path for conveying an intermediate product of a filter cigarette in which a cigarette and a filter are aligned with each other in an axial direction thereof,

feeding means for feeding a tip paper piece, in which paste is applied to one side thereof, along a prescribed feeding path and affixing the tip paper piece to the intermediate product,

a rolling passage adapted to connect to said conveying path, said rolling passage causing the conveyed intermediate product to roll in a feeding direction of the tip paper piece and winding the tip paper piece around the intermediate product to form a filter cigarette, and

dust-cleaning means located along said conveying path, said dust-cleaning means having a suction opening that overlaps at least a passing area of the filter and extends in a path direction of said conveying path, and producing a sucking force through the suction opening, wherein said suction opening is provided with a porous plate.

6. (Original) The filter attaching apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said suction opening extends up to the front of an inlet of said rolling passage and is provided with a porous plate.

7. (New) The filter attaching apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said conveying path includes a train of conveying drums that rotate while holding the intermediate product on respective outer peripheries thereof, and said suction opening is formed into the shape of a circular arc in section along the outer circumference of said conveying drum.

8. (New) The filter attaching apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said conveying path includes a train of conveying drums that rotate while holding the intermediate product on respective outer peripheries thereof, and said suction opening is formed into the shape of a circular arc in section along the outer circumference of said conveying drum.